



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SHEILA SIMON – LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

P-20 Joint Education Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 14, 2014 at 1:30pm

Lt. Governor's Capitol Office
Springfield, IL

Lt. Governor's Chicago Office
James R. Thompson Center
Chicago, IL

A- Roll Call

Chicago

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
Miguel del Valle, P-20 Council Chairman
Executive Director Eric Zarnikow, IL Student Assistance Commission
Theresa Hawley, IL Early Learning Council
President Kathy Veal, Illinois Math and Science Academy
Julie Smith, Governor's Office
Amber Kirchhoff, Governor's Office
George Letavish, Governor's Office
Kathryn Phillips, Lt. Governor's Office

Springfield

Executive Director Harry Berman, IL Board of Higher Education
Executive Director Karen Anderson, IL Community College Board
Executive Director Janet Holt, IL Education Research Council
Dan Cullen, IL Board of Higher Education
Jennifer Foster, IL Community College Board
Todd Jorns, IL Community College Board
Crystal Saint, Lt. Governor's Office

Phone

Lizanne Destefano, Illinois P-20 Council
Lynne Haeffele, Lt. Governor's Office

Absent

State Superintendent Chris Koch, IL State Board of Education
Acting Director Adam Pollett, IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

B- Approval of October 2013 Meeting Minutes

Lt. Governor Simon asked for a motion to approve the last meeting minutes. The motion was made by Del Valle, seconded by Smith, and passed unanimously.

C- Update on K-12 School Funding Reform Efforts with Lt. Governor Sheila Simon (10 minutes)

Lt. Governor Simon discussed the last Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee, where the group came up with statement principles to guide the development of a new funding formula which more accurately reflects student need. Simon talked about how the group was working to create a single funding formula that was more transparent and equitable to students across Illinois.

Del Valle agreed with Simon that this discussion is a step in the right direction, but he still wants to see how school districts will be affected by the change and looks forward to seeing the legislation that is produced as a result of the committee.

D- Supporting Illinois' Diverse Educator Pipeline with Miguel del Valle, Chairman of the Illinois P-20 Council (10 minutes)

Del Valle discussed how Erica Hunt and Audrey Soglin from the P-20 Council are working together as co-chairs of the Teacher and Leader Effectiveness Committee to look at the potential creation of a Diverse Educator Learning Exchange. Del Valle commented on the lack of minority teachers at all levels, and the disparity in passing the Test for Academic Proficiency between Hispanics (19% pass), African Americans (16% pass) and all participants (30% pass). He further discussed the shortage of bilingual teachers and minority early childhood teachers.

Del Valle said that Superintendent Koch has included a line item proposal for \$700k entitled "Diverse Educator Recruitment" in the ISBE budget. These funds would be used to support students in middle and high school to explore teaching, provide teacher training, workshops for teachers to serve as mentors, and funding a 3-day residency program. Del Valle indicated that the state need not lower standards for students, but rather help them meet them.

Destefano said that more than 90 people have worked on this project so far, including principals and district superintendents.

Holt commented on IERC research that analyzes the minority teacher pipeline.

E- Benchmarking the P-20 Goal with Julie Smith of the Governor's Office (10 minutes)

Smith began by discussing the 60 X 2025 goal and Al Phillips' report for the P-20 Council that was presented year ago. This report looked at the potential distribution of degrees needed across the various sectors in higher education to meet the goal. Illinois has hit the point, as anticipated, where it is

becoming more difficult to continue meeting benchmarks. Smith talked about the need to continue engaging community colleges and public universities in order to increase degree production.

Berman commented that we have met the goals thus far, which should be celebrated. To continue meeting the benchmarks, Berman said that we need to increase the college-going rate. He also talked about the importance of dual credit and guided pathways, recruiting adult learners, and the significance of prior learning investments. He said it is good to know what gains need to be made by sector, but we also need to give schools the tools to meet those goals.

Given Berman's comments, Anderson stressed the value of the Accelerating Opportunities program, which is funded by the Gates Foundation, and helps to move adult education students into degree and certificate producing programs after achieving their high school equivalent diplomas. ICCB is in the process of securing additional funding from the Gates Foundation and expanding the program to more colleges.

Del Valle suggested that the P-20 create annual report to share with legislators that outlines progress toward the 60 X 2025 goal by sector, school, and includes workforce demand data to illustrate if degree production is matching demand.

F- STEM Workforce Demand: Insights from the Burning Glass Data with Harry Berman,
Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (10 minutes)

Berman discussed Complete College America's GPS technical assistance grant which aims to promote research-based practices that work on retaining and graduating STEM majors. This is important because over half of STEM majors in 4-year colleges and community colleges change majors or drop out. Berman outlined how GPS strategies have been shown to improve retention and degree completion. He also talked about various high impact education practices including: deep learning, engaged learning, first year seminars, writing courses, undergraduate research opportunities, global/service learning, internships/practicum opportunities, and capstone projects. These opportunities further improve retention and degree completion, specifically for at risk students. The lead partners on this initiative include SIU Carbondale, UIC, and City Colleges of Chicago.

Berman reviewed the Burning Glass Report which analyzed real time labor demand by tracking and analyzing online job posting all over the web for STEM graduates. Some of the top positions listed included: software developer, computer support specialists, RN, healthcare administrator, civil engineer, engineer manager, analysts (math related) and medical scientists, and chemists. The largest category was in IT. Berman discussed how this data will be further analyzed in future months.

Berman noted that this data is valuable for students, school counselors, and teachers to see the real time demand for these positions. Berman discussed the CIP (classification of instructional program) to SOC (standard occupational category) trajectory to help individuals match their degree with a career. He further discussed the current supply vs. demand gap for entry level positions in STEM fields. For example, Burning Glass data showed that there were 32,990 entry level openings for people in IT in Illinois over the last 12 months. Over a similar time period, Illinois only produced 2,877 B.A. degrees in IT—a huge difference.

G- Update on IL Pathways and the Illinois Shared Learning Environment (ISLE) with George Letavish of the Governor's Office (10 minutes)

Letavish indicated that discussions for ISLE implementation have begun with ISAC and DCEO and that he will be reaching out to ISBE, ICCB, IEAS, IBHE about the specific needs of each agency to get everyone on the same page. All tools and resources from the various agencies will ultimately be accessed via a single portal. SIU is developing a proposal. Letavish will give an update in the coming weeks.

Letavish and others commented on the need for coordination around IL Pathways needs, including increased communications about what agencies can offer, and where the learning exchanges are in their stages of implementation. He also discussed the issue of grant oversight—how different funding pieces are running on different timelines, and problems finding capital. A quarterly report will be disseminated to stakeholders to see where learning exchanges are working, analyzing various levels of engagement, and showing what secondary institutions are involved.

Letavish and Smith made comments about potential incentives for districts to participate. Aurora and CPS participated last year, but there have been problems implementing the initiative in other districts—Peoria, Decatur, East St. Louis.

H- Update on the Illinois Community College System's Career & Academic Readiness System (CARS) with Todd Jorns of the Illinois Community College Board (10 minutes)

Anderson said that this CARS system is an example of something that could be used with Illinois Pathways to enhance basic skills. This tool would be available to high school, faculty, adult education learners, and career and technical education students and will be contextualized for specific technical education fields. Currently students have to be registered with an institution to use the program.

Jorns talked about how the state spends lots of money on remedial and developmental education. In 2008 a steering committee was formed to help address the lack of online resources for this field. The CARS project was a three year project that started in 2008 that used adult education leadership funds. Community colleges can use CARS to supplement programs, create standalone programs, enhance career advancement and counseling, and prepare high school students.

Three curriculum content teams (math, reading, and writing) were formed to identify content from TAP, GDI, and paraprofessional test preparation resources online. Six institutions originally piloted the program (including two high schools) and they used feedback to improve programming. Statewide training was then held and the program went live across the state in the Spring of 2012.

Teachers have the ability to edit courses (add more content, rearrange content). Six more units are being added for alignment with Common Core. A grant from DCEO is being used for contextualizing the program for manufacturing careers. ICCB would like to contextualize programs for healthcare careers with more funding. The CARS program has the potential to be licensed to other states, which would support sustainability.

Jorns led the group through a demonstration of one of the online courses and answered questions on user access. Jorns also noted that the program is free. He said the next step is to work with ISBE to expand this program to high school students, since they have been focused on implementation in community colleges and adult education thus far.

I- Update on the Lewis and Clark Federal Grant Award with Jennifer Foster of the Illinois Community College Board (10 minutes)

Foster said that Lewis and Clark Community College was one of nine community colleges within a consortium to be awarded a Department of Labor grant to develop a new transportation/logistics curriculum. This program will train people from all along the Mississippi River for jobs of the future, and is a great opportunity for Lewis and Clark.

J- Governor's Birth to Five Proposal with Theresa Hawley of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (10 minutes)

Hawley discussed how the Governor's Birth to Five proposal is focused on prenatal care, increasing access to early childhood care and education, and expanding programs. The proposal also recognizes the significance of parent education and support. Hawley mentioned how the Early Learning Council had a retreat back in January to evaluate the current work. As a result, it was decided that they will be targeting at risk young children the most over than general expansion. Hawley talked about how this aligns with federal policy and potential federal partnerships, specifically Early Head Start. Early Head Start can be either a home-visit program or a center-based program. The federal government is looking to strengthen the relationship between Early Head Start and childcare programs. They will be distributing a significant grant this summer to facilitate that work, which Illinois hopes to benefit from.

K- Update on the Annual Performance Measure for the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant with Theresa Hawley of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (10 minutes)

Hawley also indicated that there is more Race to the Top funding available to help build state preschool programming. Hawley discussed the need to build stronger professional development for preschool teachers, which is what the state would apply for the funding.

April 10th, the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development will be hosting a symposium called "College and Career Readiness Begins at Birth" for regional superintendents and superintendents of large districts. They want to help administrators in the K-12 system think about partnering to support the early years of education.

Hawley also talked about higher education grants awarded to partnered 2 and 4 year institutions to evaluate programs for preparation of early childhood educators. 11 grants were awarded in total.

L- MAP Update with Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (10 minutes)

Zarnikow discussed the MAP Advising Work Group, which was charged to catalogue existing academic advising and support programs in the state, survey existing literature in Illinois and across the country to see what is effective or not effective in advising, to make recommendations for minimum requirements for advising, and to file a report to the General Assembly. The working group was formed in September with 24 members picked for their areas of expertise and experience, as well as ethnic and geographic distributions. The final report issued was over 500 pages long. The key feature of the report was focused on balancing improvement goals and access.

Zarnikow discussed how a one size fits all answer for an advising program would not work when considering the different types of schools in Illinois. The first recommendation from the group was to have metrics for targeted levels of improvements, like graduation rates or attempted hours versus completed hours. The second recommendation was for schools to make strong academic advising available for all students, and provide mandatory advising for first year students and at risk students. More recommendations included introducing a guided pathways approach, financial literacy programs, warning systems, orientation programs for freshman.

Zarnikow says this process is moving along smoothly and is on track to grant 135K in MAP Awards for FY2014. For FY2015, application volume is up 6%, but the challenge is not knowing what the budget will look like. Zarnikow predicts the suspension date will be earlier this year than last year.

M- State Agency Updates (20 minutes)

Zarnikow talked about the ISAC budget for the upcoming fiscal year, February Financial Aid Awareness Month, and the College Illinois Tuition Program, which is still in open enrollment.

Veal discussed IMSA's new professional development program for middle school and high school teachers in under-resourced areas in the state. She also touched on their Mentor Matching program.

Holt indicated that the IERC is in the middle of their charter school study, a study looking at out-migration of Illinois high school graduates that go to institutions of higher education out of the state, a few state evaluations, and a study with a P-20 subcommittee.

Anderson said that Illinois has been invited to Lumina Foundation developmental education "boot camp" in North Carolina at the end of March. She just returned from a White House summit where Illinois made commitments to better engage our low-income students. And, she went on another trip to D.C. with community college trustees to discuss higher education issues facing Congress. In addition, ICCB is working with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum on an oral history of community colleges.

N- Other Business

The group thanked Berman for his work with IBHE.

O- Next meeting is April 11, 2014

P- Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.